

Sustainable Economic Development Advisory Committee (SEDAC)

Minutes

February 8, 2007, 8:30 AM

Office of Economic Development

Members present: Becky Anderson, Ray Bailey, Carol King, Brian Moore, Frank Taylor, Chuck Tessier, Matthew Raker, Pat Whalen

Members absent: Kimberly Hodges, Lewis Lankford, David McConville, Bruce Tompkins, Pam Turner, Laura Webb, Jacqueline Grant, Gene Bell, Robin Cape, Patti Glazer

Staff: Sam Powers, Brenda Mills, Stephanie Monson, Jan Moore, Ed Vess

Guests: Joe Minicozzi and Andy Eyston of the Asheville Design Center

Quorum: A quorum was not present.

Minutes

The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

Recognition

Chairman Tessier recognized Jan Moore for her 30 years of service with the City of Asheville. Ms. Moore will retire on February 28, 2007. She will continue on a part-time status until the new Administrative Assistant is on-board.

Asheville Design Center

Joe Minicozzi of the Asheville Design Center (ADC) stated the Design Center has received a \$15,000 grant. Their goal is to create a project that will affect the area for the next 150 years, thus they chose the I-26 Corridor project. Their ultimate goal is to create a master plan for the area around the corridor project.

Mr. Minicozzi's powerpoint presentation showed how ADC's premise is that the highway should be designed around the community, rather than build the highway and then build the community around the highway. He showed examples of beautiful well-known bridges that are designed as part of communities and cities. He showed examples of urban villages are being built as part of a highway project, even some bridges have museums, shops, and restaurants as part of the bridge.

Mr. Minicozzi explained how designing the bridges and roadways using the American Institute of Architecture's 10 Principles for Livable Communities which incorporates urban villages/plazas into the design is a way to reclaim the land and bring it back into the tax base.

Mr. Minicozzi explained that NCDOT originally had 5 alternative designs. Alternative #1 was discarded approx. 12 years ago. NCDOT is currently considering Alternatives #2, #3, #4, & #5. The ADC has ruled out Alternatives #2 & #3 because they didn't separate local and interstate traffic. ADC is working on a modified version of NCDOT's Alternative #4, which they have labeled #4b & #4c.

Mr. Minicozzi said another recommendation of the ADC is to build a small bridge which would connect the Emma area to downtown without people having to use the highway.

It was agreed among the Commission that getting the Asheville Design Center's alternatives thru NCDOT would be a challenge. Mr. Whalen suggested that the ADC present the economic value of this project as well as the aesthetic value.

The Asheville Design Center is located at 8 College Street (across from Pritchard Park). They have a 3-D display model on-site on which they try the different alternatives. The ADC Board officially meets monthly on Tuesdays, but is usually there every Tuesday. Every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., the ADC holds a public open meeting. They will meet with someone on an appointment basis if need be.

Mr. Minicozzi will make a presentation to the City Council's Planning and Economic Development Committee on Feb. 14, to City Council in March or April, and hopefully to the Metropolitan Planning Board (MPO) in May.

The ADC's comparison chart showing the cost and amount of acreage used for the MPO's Alternatives #4 as compared to the ADC's Alternative #4bc is not complete at this time.

HUB Project Update

Mr. Bailey said currently the HUB Alliance is receiving reports from the various HUB Committees.

Mr. Raker said the HUB organization website is almost finished. The Communications Committee is currently reviewing it. The synopsis should come out in the spring.

Update of SEDAC Priorities/Asheville Agenda

Mr. Powers said that City Council reviewed SEDAC's short list of priorities at their retreat. He said that many of City Council's strategic goals mesh will with SEDAC's list of priorities.

Mr. Powers said that City Council will discuss their strategic goals at their March 13th meeting. The SEDAC short list of priorities will also be discussed.

Mr. Taylor said each strategic goal needs to have a person or organization's name attached to it as well as a dollar amount. Mr. Powers said that any strategic goal adopted by City Council will be assigned names, due dates, and dollar amounts.

Mr. Powers pointed out that the Center City Plan is not on the list and suggested SEDAC needs to let City Council know if they want it included on the list.

Chairman Tessier asked SEDAC to review the priority list before the next SEDAC meeting to determine what they want to take to City Council at the March meeting.

Other Business/Announcements

Mr. Powers announced a Brownfields conference that will be held April 24-25, 2007. He asked anyone interested in attending the conference to let him know. If there is a cost associated with attendance at the conference, the City will cover the cost for committee members.

Adjourned: 10:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 8, 2007 - 8:30 AM
Economic Development Office, 29 Haywood Street

Minutes prepared by: Jan Moore